

Course Objectives 2006

Physics is the branch of science in which people explore the physical world around them and seek to understand and describe the phenomena they encounter. Learning in physics is inspired by a simple wonder at the way things are and a compelling curiosity about why they work the way they do. A study of physics spans the limits of our universe – from the subatomic to the size of galaxies – and develops skills and knowledge that are useful in today's world and important in further learning.

Learning in physics involves students investigating physical phenomena and developing concepts, principles, and models in explaining those phenomena. As students develop scientific knowledge and skills, they are given an opportunity to become aware of their own intellectual and vocational potential and to develop further the essential skills, such as problem solving, numeracy, and communication, described in the *New Zealand Curriculum Framework*.

Increasingly, our lives have become dependent on science and technology. A knowledge of physical processes and their applications allows students to make their own well-reasoned decisions on issues related to science, technology, and society.

This course will contain both internally and externally assessed Achievement Standards and formative assessments during the year. Please refer to the assessment plan for more details.

The course content and learning objectives are based on *Physics in the New Zealand Curriculum* Level 8, formulated from the *New Zealand Curriculum Framework*.

